

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A telecommunications system, comprising:
2 a central control center maintaining a central database of users and a
3 database of preactivation information; and
4 a plurality of local switches adapted to detect a power-on of a cellular
5 telephone, activate said cellular telephone at a local switch and forward activation
6 information to said central database.

- 1 2. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said
2 central control center is adapted to receive said preactivation information from a
3 point of sale.

- 1 3. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said
2 central control center is adapted to propagate said preactivation information to said
3 plurality of local switches.

- 1 4. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said
2 activation information comprises a valid password entry.

- 1 5. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said
2 preactivation information is propagated from an activating local switch to other
3 switches.

- 1 6. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said
2 preactivation information is transmitted from an activating local switch to said central
3 control center and propagated from said central control center to other switches.

- 1 7. A telecommunications method, comprising:
2 providing a central control center maintaining a central database of users and
3 a database of preactivation information; and
4 providing a plurality of local switches adapted to detect a power-on of a

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1 8. A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein said central control
2 center is adapted to receive said preactivation information from a point of sale.

1 10. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said activation
2 information comprises a valid password entry.

1 12. A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein said preactivation
2 information is transmitted from an activating local switch to said central control center
3 and propagated from said central control center to other switches.

1 13. A telecommunications switch in a telecommunications network,
2 comprising:
3 a database storing preactivation information; and
4 a password collection unit adapted to receive a password of a detected
5 cellular telephone;
6 wherein said preactivation information is propagated to said
7 telecommunications switch from a point of sale of said cellular telephone and,
8 responsive to a verification of said password, an activation of said cellular telephone
9 at said telecommunications switch occurs, said database is updated with activation
10 information and said activation information is forwarded to other telecommunication
11 switches in the network.

1 14. A telecommunications switch in accordance with claim 13, wherein said
2 preactivation information is propagated to said telecommunications switch from a
3 central control center.

1 15. A telecommunications switch in accordance with claim 14, wherein said
2 activation information is propagated to said central control center responsive to said
3 verification.

1 16. A telecommunications switch in accordance with claim 14, wherein said
2 activation information is transmitted to said central control center responsive to said
3 verification and said central control center propagates aid activation information to
4 other telecommunications switches in said network.

1 17. A telecommunications method, comprising:
2 associating a password with a cellular telephone;
3 providing said password and preactivation information to a central control
4 center;
5 propagating said password and preactivation information to one or more local
6 switches;
7 detecting a power on of said cellular telephone at one of said local switches;
8 verifying said password at said one of said local switches;
9 activating said cellular telephone at said local switch responsive to said
10 verifying; and
11 providing activation information responsive to said activating from said local
12 switch to said central control center and other local switches.

1 18. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 17, wherein
2 said associating a password comprises associating said password at a point of sale
3 of said cellular telephone.

1 19. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 17, wherein
2 said providing activation information comprises transmitting said activation

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3 information from said local switch to said central control center.

- 1 20. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 17, wherein
- 2 said providing activation information comprises propagating said activation
- 3 information from said local switch to said other switches.

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